Application No. 09/711,709

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on March 17, 2003. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakoneczny et al. (US Patent 5,242,111).

Claims 11 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakoneczny et al.

Applicant notes with gratitude that claims 13 and 25 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 13 and 25 have been accordingly rewritten in independent form. Claims 11 and 23 have been amended to depend from claims 13 and 25, respectively. Since claims 13 and 25 are deemed allowable, claims 11 and 23 are also deemed allowable. Although Applicant traverses the §102 rejection, for the purposes of expedited allowance, claims 22 and 24 have been canceled.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to 703-872-9307 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on Jun 16, 2003.

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(Name of Applicant's Representative)